

PATENT**REMARKS**

Claims 15-28 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

In the Office Action, claims 29, 32-34, 41, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,902,324 to Thompson et al.

In the Office Action, claims 30, 31, and 35-40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response thereto, claims 29 and 34 have been cancelled and claims 30-33 and 35-42 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 30-33 and 35-42 are now pending. Following is a discussion of the patentability of each of the pending claims.

Independent Claim 30

In the Office Action, claim 30 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 30 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 29. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 30 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 31-33, 41, and 42

Claims 31-33, 41, and 42 depend from claim 30 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 35

In the Office Action, claim 35 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 35 has

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been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 29 and intervening claim 34. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 35 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claim 36

Claim 36 depends from claim 35 and is similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 36 is in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 37

In the Office Action, claim 37 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 37 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 29. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 37 is in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 38

In the Office Action, claim 38 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 38 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 29. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 38 is in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 39

In the Office Action, claim 39 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 39 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 29. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 39 is in condition for allowance.

PATENT**Independent Claim 40**

In the Office Action, claim 40 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 40 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 29. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 40 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

Ronald S. Tamura

Ronald S. Tamura, Reg. No. 43,179
Patent Attorney for Applicants

CUSTOMER NUMBER: 36802